

CAP Post-2020 Consultative Committee Meeting Minutes
Thursday 18 February 2021 @ 10.00am By Webex

In attendance DAFM: Paul Savage, Chair; Sharon Murphy, Ted Massey and Maria Rigney, all EU Division; Corina Roe, Mary Carey, Ultan Waldron, Cormac McGann, Niamh Hamilton Jones, all CAP Rural Development Division; Dympna Kehoe, Nitrates, Biodiversity & Engineering Division; Jerome Walsh, Josephine Brennan, Dympna Furlong, all Ag. Environment & Structures Division; Meg Laffan, Communications Division; Margaret Murray, Locally Led Schemes; Tom Keating, Integrated Controls Division.

See Annex 1 for list of other organisations and names of their representatives in attendance.

Apologies: Anne Randles, Ornua

The Chair opened the meeting by welcoming the Committee members and giving an overview of the meeting agenda.

Item 1: Minutes from the meeting on 10 December and matters arising including views around the summary document of the Green Architecture workshop

The minutes were agreed. No comments were received on the summary document covering the workshop on 10 December. The Chair said any comments were welcome through the email address CAPConsultativeCommittee@agriculture.gov.ie

Item 2: Farming For Nature Presentation followed by discussion

Patricia Deane and Fergal Monaghan, from the Farming For Nature Group gave a presentation on EIP's which included; the background, challenges and lessons learned along with why a locally adapted approach is needed. James Moran gave a short presentation on the Farming for Nature Technical Group's proposals for the CAP Green Architecture in Ireland.

The Chair thanked the presenters for their thought provoking presentations. He discussed the high uptake levels and the need to balance aspiration and ability in EIP's. He asked the presenters to expand on their suggested transition from local to national level. The three presenters expanded on their views further before the Chair opened the floor for discussion.

Some Committee Members suggested a follow up workshop would be welcome. Some of the issues raised included; the challenges of intensive dairy farming, eligible habitat features and concern regarding land abandonment. It was also suggested that EIP's are focussed on a particular type of farmer at the moment. A whole-farm and catchments based approach was also discussed.

The Chair said there are also wider dimensions outside CAP. There is ongoing consideration across the Department as it wants to ensure consistency across Pillar 1 and Pillar 2 of the CAP.

The Chair thanked Patricia, Fergal and James for their contribution and said the Group is welcome to feed in as the intervention process develops over the coming months. DAFM will reflect on the material provided and further engagement may take place. This engagement

would be run by DAFM colleagues on the Environment side, who can work further with the Stakeholders on this. It was agreed that James Moran would forward additional documents which will issue to the Stakeholders through the CAP Consultative Committee email address.

Item 3: Update on developments at EU level

Sharon Murphy, EU Division gave an update on recent meetings. Two Agri-Fish Council meetings took place since the Committee last met. At December's meeting, CAP was not discussed. In January the Portuguese Presidency set out their aims, they want to achieve agreement on CAP in spring, but it will probably be late May when this is achieved. There was also a general discussion on the CAP under AOB. The Ministers want to see the Presidency pursuing the Council's General Approach during the trilogue negotiations.

The main discussion is at SCA level where feedback from the Trilogues takes place. The German Presidency concluded their presidency at the end of 2020. Their focus was on the Green Architecture. No decision was reached and technical discussions are still taking place, mainly on Conditionality and Eco-Schemes.

There are significant differences between the Council and Parliament's approaches to Eco-Schemes. The Commission published a list of possible Eco-Scheme practices in January. Another issue raised regarding Eco-Schemes was animal welfare. It appears that Eco-Schemes will be able to address this objective of CAP. There was a lot of discussion on social conditionality under the CAP; this relates to legislation supporting workers rights.

The Portuguese Presidency has paused discussions on the Green Architecture and moved to a number of other areas including the New Delivery Model.

Discussions on the CMO proposals are also on-going; however there are significant differences between the Parliament and the Council positions for this regulation.

Item 4: Update draft SWOT Analysis and Needs Assessment

Mary Carey, CAP Rural Development Division, gave an overview of the CAP Strategic Plan (CSP) Process which included; timelines, milestones and public consultation requirements. She emphasised timelines are subject to change as there are a number of unknowns, in particular regarding progress on the draft regulations at EU level. Mary also discussed the amendments to the draft SWOT and Needs Assessment. Changes include taking on board feedback from stakeholders, updated figures, recent policy initiatives, feedback from ex-ante evaluators and points raised in the Commission's Recommendations on the CSP.

Committee Members were invited to give comments and feedback at the meeting and by written comments to the CAP Consultative Committee email address.

The Chair thanked those who gave comments and feedback relating to the updated draft SWOT analysis and/or the Needs Assessment during the meeting. Further written comments are welcome. The Chair said the iterative process will continue and the documents will be kept under review. He said the Commission's recommendations document would be shared with Committee Members and DAFM was happy to receive comments.

Item 5: Future work for the Committee and date of next meeting

The next meeting will take place on 25 March @ 2.00pm. The meeting will focus on DAFM's paper on the Green Architecture. The document will be circulated in the coming weeks. The questionnaire sent out recently on the redistributive proposals regarding Direct Payments under the new CAP will also be discussed in more detail. At a Committee Member's request, the Chair agreed to extend the date for submission of the questionnaire. After further consideration it was agreed to extend the date until 03 March @ Noon.

The draft scoping report for the SEA will be launched later today (18 February). Committee Members will receive a link via email. It is proposed to hold a stakeholder workshop on Thursday 11 March. The planned format will be similar to last year's open focus group discussion; Committee Members and three additional nominees will be invited to participate.

DAFM is hoping to have a draft CSP by the end of June.

Item 6: AOB - There were no issues raised under AOB.

Annex 1. - List of non-DAFM organisations and names of their representatives in attendance

Representative	Organisation
Bleasdale, Andy	Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht
Burke, Joe	Bord Bia
Byrne, Colin	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage
Cadogan, Irene	Department of Environment, Climate and Communications
Caffrey, Mary	Department of Environment, Climate and Communications
Carter, Clive	Irish Grain Growers Association
Claffey, James	Irish Rural Link
Curran, Daniel	Department of Rural and Community Development
Deakin, Jenny	Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
Duffy, Thomas	Macra na Feirme
Duggan, Oonagh	Environmental Pillar/Bird Watch Ireland
Farrell, Eamonn	ICOS - Irish Cooperative Organisation Society
Fitzgibbon, Neasa	ICSA - Irish Cattle and Sheep Farmers Association
Fitzsimons, Paula	ACORNS
Flynn, David	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage
Grant, Donal	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage
Griffin, Denis	Irish Farmers Association (IFA)
Hanrahan, Kevin	Teagasc
Healy, Cormac	Meat Industry Ireland
Lumley, Ian	An Taisce
Lynch, Donal	Department of Public Expenditure and Reform
Lysaght, Liam	National Bio-diversity Data Centre
Moran, James	Farming For Nature
Monaghan, Fergal	Farming For Nature
Mulvihill, Conor	Dairy Industry Ireland
O'Donnell, Colm	Irish Natura & Hill Farmers Association
O'Driscoll, Owen	Agricultural Consultants Association
Patricia Deane	Farming For Nature
Smyth, Paul	Irish Creamery Milk Suppliers Association
Stanley Smith, Charles	Environmental Pillar
Wallace, Michael	UCD
Westbrook, Gillian	Irish Organic Association